



THE U.S. ELECTIONS 2008

No recommendation is made in respect of non-U.S. Government web sites and publications listed.



The CANDIDATES Every presidential campaign is dramatic and historic, but as the fervor surrounding the 2008 election continues to build, U.S. voters and the rest of the world will want to consider the candidates' personal histories more closely. What sort of people rise to the top in the U.S. political system, what are their attributes, their sensibilities, and their strengths?

[Inside this publication](#)

[The Presidential Field: Full Coverage of the 2008 Candidates 1st Debate](#)

[The Vice Presidential Candidates – 2008](#) [VP Debate](#)

THE POLITICAL PROCESS

[Election Center 2008](#)

[The Debates](#)

[Belmont University, Nashville TN – 7th October - 9pm ET](#)

[Hofstra University, New York NY- 15th October – 9pm ET](#)

[Where the Candidates Stand on the Issues](#)

[You Decide 2008](#)

[Blog For President](#)

[P2008: Race for the White House](#)

[U.S. Elections – 2008](#) / e-journal: [The Long Campaign – Elections 2008](#)

[Elections 2008](#) profiles, financial info, key issues, etc for the main party candidates

[The New Hampshire Political Library](#) – New Hampshire, First in the Nation

[U.S. Department of State, Foreign Press Center: Elections 2008](#)

[Elections 2008 Univ. Michigan Doc. Center](#)

[Vanderbilt University Elections Links](#)

[Politics1 – The Presidency 2008](#)

[Federal Election Commission](#)

[U.S. National Archives: U.S. Election & Voting Resources](#)

[Ben's Guide to U.S. Government for Kids](#) / [Ben's Guide – Election of the President](#)

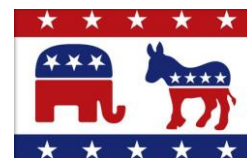
[The Center for Voting and Democracy](#)

[Election 2008: Think Youth – News and Opinion by America's Progressive Youth](#)

[David Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections](#)

[Printable Maps: Congressional Districts, 110th Congress](#) (January 2007-January 2009).

[Find a boundary map](#) - Congressional districts, data profiles of current Members of Congress.



THE CAMPAIGN

[Democratic Party](#) / [Democratic National Convention](#) - Denver, CO - August 25-28, 2008

[Republican Party](#) / [Republican National Convention](#) - Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN – Sept. 1-4, 2008



[Winning Campaigns Online](#) - campaign websites and online campaigning publications

[CFR - Campaign 2008: Foreign Policy in the Presidential Election](#)

[Iowa Democratic Caucus](#)

[Iowa Republican Caucus](#)

[Project Vote Smart](#)

[Emily's List](#)

[Campaign Finance](#)

[Money in the U.S. Elections](#)

[The FEC and Campaign Finance Law](#)

[Issue Tracker: The Candidates on Immigration](#) / [Issue Tracker: The Candidates on Trade](#)

[The 51st State: The State of Online: The Presidential Campaign 2008: Candidates and News](#)

[Sources](#) by Laura Gordon-Murnane. *Infotoday.com*, November-December. 21p. A comparative guide to candidates' websites, mainstream media online coverage of the election campaign, political blogs and aggregator tools.

[PACronyms: Acronyms of Political Action Committees](#)

THE DEBATES

[Remembering Historical Debates](#)

[Commission on Presidential Debates](#)

[Commission on Presidential Debates Announces Dates, Formats and Candidate Selection Criteria for 2008 General Election, 19 November, 2007](#)

MEDIA COVERAGE: *breaking political news*

[Election news resources](#)

[Televised 2008 Debates – ABC](#)

[ABC News: Politics](#)

[BBC News – Politics](#)

[CBS News: Politics](#)

[Fox News: Politics](#)

[CNN.COM: Elections 2008](#)

[You Tube – Elections Monitor](#)

[MSNBC News: Politics](#)

[USA Today: Campaigns & Elections](#)

[VoA: Road to 2008 Election](#)

[Yahoo – Elections 2008](#)

[Washington Post – Politics](#)

[Project Vote Smart](#)

[Political Wire](#)

[News Hour with Jim Lehrer](#)

[C-SPAN's Campaign Network](#)

[Drudge Report](#)

[CNN – America Votes 2008](#)

[CNN – Debate Scorecard](#)

[NBC5 – Presidential Race](#)

[The Cook Political Report](#)

[Campaigns & Elections Magazine](#)

[Roll Call](#)

OPINION POLLS

[CBS News Polls](#)

[PollingReport.com](#)

[The Harris Poll](#)

[Los Angeles Times Poll](#)

[RealClearPolitics Polls](#)

[Gallup.com](#)

[The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press](#)

[The Roper Center](#)

[Survey Research Links](#)

[Zogby International](#)

YOUTH VOTING

[Can I Vote?](#)

[Generation Engage](#)

[I'm 18 in '08](#)

[Archive - 'Youth Vote'](#)

[CIRCLE: Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement](#)

VIDEOS

[Campaign Network](#) - From C-SPAN & CQ

[You Choose '08](#)

[ExpertVoter.org: Video Guide to 2008 Candidates](#)

[PrezVid: The YouTube Campaign-2008](#)

[The Living Room Candidate: Presidential Campaign Commercials, 1952-2008](#)

[Presidential Election 2008](#) [RealClearPolitics Videos](#) - Elections 2008 – YouTube, etc.

VOTING & ELECTION RESULTS

[Study of the American Electorate](#)

[U.S. Election Procedures](#)

[Voting Overseas](#)

[2008 Presidential Primary Dates and Candidate Filing Deadlines for Ballot Access](#)



[Voting Rights in Perspective](#)

[Voting Rights Act and Amendments](#)

[Voting & Elections \(FirstGov.gov\)](#)

[Election Law](#)

[State election directors](#)

[Elected officials](#)

[Federal Voting Assistance Program](#)

[Project Vote Smart](#)

[Restrictive Voter I.D. Requirements](#)

[The Electoral College & Presidential elections](#)

[Electapress.com](#) - The Road to the White House

MAINSTREAM MEDIA BLOGS - ELECTIONS

[ABC News: The Note](#)

[CBS News: Politics](#)

[CNN: The Situation Room](#)

[MSNBC News: First Read](#)

[N.J.'s The Hotline](#)

[Fox News](#)

[New York Times: The Caucus](#)

[Washington Post: The Fix](#)

[Election Blog Archive](#)

[2008 Presidential Debates - Blog](#)

[You Tube – Elections Monitor](#)

[Foreign Policy Association](#)

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

[The Campaign Finance Institute](#)

[Federal Election Commission: Campaign Finance Law](#)

[Campaign Finance: Overview, CRS, 29 March, 2007](#)

[Public Financing of Congressional Elections: Background/Analysis](#) - March 15, 2007.

[Campaign Financing: Highlights and Chronology of Current Federal Law](#) - January 24, 2007

[Party Financial Activity Summarized. 30 October, 2006](#)

[Project Vote Smart: Campaign Finance](#)

[Race for the White House: Banking on Becoming President](#)

ELECTION LAW RESOURCES

[The Campaign Legal Center](#)

[Commission on Federal Election Reform](#)

[Election Law @ Moritz \(College of Law\)](#)

[Help America Vote Act of 2002](#)

[Federal Election Commission: Administering, Enforcing Federal Campaign Finance Laws](#)

[U.S. Constitutional Provisions \(Click on "Constitutional Provisions"\)](#)

[U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Voting Section: FAQs](#)

[Voting Rights Act](#)

[Electronic Rulemaking in the Federal Government](#) CRS, 16 October, 2007.

[FEC Final Rule on Campaign Finance & the Internet](#)

[H.R. 4844: Federal Election Integrity Act of 2006](#)

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

[The Electoral College and How It Works](#)

[LoC: Who Really Elects the President?](#)

[U.S. Nat. Archives: U.S. Electoral College/U.S. Nat. Archives: Electoral College Calculator](#)

VOTING TECHNOLOGY

[Caltech-MIT Voting Technology Project](#)

[Election Reform Information Project](#)

[How E-voting Works](#)

[The National Assoc. of State Election Directors](#)

[Vote: The Machinery of Democracy](#)

[Voter Registration Verification Websites](#)



FAQs - including "What is a primary election? When is a general election held?
Can anyone run for office? What are the Democrat and Republican symbols?
How did Republicans pick the elephant, and Democrats the donkey, to represent their parties?

and More FAQs...

Election Trivia

Just for Fun: Presidential Trivia

See also:

Religion & Politics '08

The Future of Red, Blue and Purple America by Ruy Teixeira. *Brookings, Issues in Governance*, Jan. 15p.

Cultural and geographical aspects of polarization in the changing political landscape of the U.S.

Presidential Candidates' Responses to State of the Union Address, January 2008 *CFR*, 28 Jan. 2008.

Elections Reform: Overview and Issues *CRS*, 4 September, 2007.

Lobbying Disclosure: Themes and Issues, 110th Congress *CRS*, 12 January, 2007.

527 Political Organizations: Legislation in the 109th Congress *CRS*, 31 March, 2006.

Campaign Finance: Constitutional and Legal Issues of Soft Money *CRS*, 4 February, 2004.

Election Reform and Electronic Voting Systems (DREs): Analysis and Security Issues *CRS*, 4 Nov. '03.

ARTICLES



Women in Politics: Making a Difference in the U.S.A.

U.S. Dept of State, Office of International Information Programs, 2008.

Showcases stories of women who believed that they could make a difference by participating in politics and government, and forged ahead to do so. They are not famous, like U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, and they are not serving at the top, like Presidents Michelle Bachelet of Chile or Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf in Liberia. But, just like Bachelet, Clinton, and Johnson-Sirleaf, they have overcome obstacles to

get where they are. They have acquired experience in running for election, being an effective policy-maker, and in persuading elected officials to support their cause.

Most Approve of Wall Street Bailout and See Obama as Better Able to Address Crisis - By a margin of almost two-to-one the American public thinks the government is doing the right thing in investing billions of dollars to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure...

Cell Phones and the 2008 Vote: An Update - ...As the number of Americans who are reachable only by cell phones rises, interest continues to grow in the question of whether public opinion polls that do not include cell phones are accurately measuring the relative levels of support for the two candidates.

FOX/Rasmussen Swing State Polling - Polling this week in Florida and Ohio shows little net change from the previous week with McCain holding a very modest advantage in each state. McCain and Obama both increased their level of support slightly in each as the number of undecided/third party voters declined by three points in each.

What States Are Really in Play? - In terms of political momentum, when the topic being debated is national security or social issues and values, McCain benefits. When the topic is a souring economy or financial crisis, Obama wins. So this week, it is Obama's week to ride with the tide.

Shifts in Last Two Months of Election Not Uncommon - A question of keen interest to election observers is the following: To what degree do presidential elections change between the end of the political conventions and Election Day?

Meet the New Map – Same As the Old Map (Almost) - In early summer, the Crystal Ball took its first look at the likely November 4th Electoral College map...We based our map not just on current polling but also the recent historical record in presidential elections...As we revise it in this essay, we will once again add a dose of history to current trends, and at least tentatively, we will attempt to narrow the number of toss-ups.

Trust in Government Remains Low - Gallup's annual Governance poll finds a continued deterioration in public confidence in U.S. government institutions. Just 26% of Americans say they are satisfied with the way the nation is being governed.

Voting America: United States Politics, 1840-2008 - Voting America examines the evolution of presidential politics across the span of American history. The project offers a wide spectrum of cinematic visualizations of how Americans voted at the county level, from the beginning of the modern party system to the modern day. See historical developments in American voting patterns as they moved across the political landscape.

A Primer on Voting-by-Mail - Voting-by-mail is relatively new on the U.S. electoral landscape... Advocates for mail balloting argue that because of its strong democratic tradition, the United States should continue to eradicate barriers to the franchise, and make voting easier through mail-in elections.

Oregon's Vote-by-Mail Guide - In 2000 Oregon became the first state in the nation to conduct a presidential election entirely by mail. This brochure includes general information on how vote by mail works, a list of frequently asked questions, vote by mail facts and figures, etc.



Constitution **Federal government**

President **Vice President**

Cabinet **Congress** **Congressional districts**

President of the Senate **President pro tempore**

Majority Leader **Minority Leader**

Speaker

House of Representatives **Senate**

The U.S. Department of State assumes no responsibility for the content and availability of the resources listed above. All Internet links were active at October 6, 2008.

American Reference Center, U.S. Embassy, P.O. Box 1190, Wellington

We welcome your feedback! Email us: wellington.arc@state.gov

If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader, [download it here](#)

See also our webliography on [Polling and Public Opinion](#)

